[श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर]

पूर्व में दो सरकारें गिर गयी हैं, इसलिए यह सरकार कम-से-कम दोबारा गिरने से पहले पत्रकारों के साथ न्याय कर के जाए और उनके लिए मकान की व्यवस्था कर दें । महोदय, मेरी जानकारी यह है कि हाउसिंग मिनिस्ट्री के पास लिस्ट भी देने के लिए तैयार है, लेकिन वहां एक टैकनीकल सवाल खड़ा है जिस कारण यह मसला रुका पड़ा है । अतः मेरा आपके माध्यम से सरकार से निवेदन है कि वह इस सवाल को शीघ्रातिशीघ्र हल करने की दिशा में कदम उठाए ।

श्री मोहम्मद अफजल उर्फ भैलन अफजल (उत्तर प्रदेश) : मैं श्री माथुर के साथ एसोसिएट करता हूं । यह बहुत अहम मसला है . . . (**व्यवधान**) . . .

Concern over the extension of disturbed Areas Act to Meghalaya

SHRI G. G. SWELL (Meghalaya): It is a matter of shock and concern that by a notification yesterday, the Disturbed Areas Act has been extended by 20 kilometers into Meghalaya. Twenty kms. as the crow flies would mean that the outer line will reach Shillong or its vicinity. The Government may clarify whether it is the land belt or the sky belt that has been put into operation and whether it may also demarcate the areas that will fall within the belt.

Meghalaya has always been an island of peace and tranquility. It can't be imagined as to why the Central Government has thought it fit to extend it. The purpose could have been served by seeking the co-operation of the State Government, which has always been given. The State police and the security forces could have been asked to be more alert to intercept any fleeing militant from Assam.

The Armed forces have not been known to act with restraint and courtesy with the civilian population esbecially in the villages, and thus instead of serving the purpose, it runs the risk of enlarging the area of bitterness.

I have been told that the State Government was not consulted. In Assam, the Chief Minister has asked for the army's intervention but there was no such request from Meghalaya. This is ill-advised. Even at this moment, I would ask the Government to withdraw the notification and seek a discussion with the three Governments adjoining Assam with a view to obtain their minimum co-operation. Will the Minister of Home affairs react to this? Has he heard me?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): Yes, I have heard you.

SHRI G. G. SWELL: How do you define the 20 km. belt? Is it the land boundary or is it as the crow flies?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. NAGEN SAIKIA): Mr. Swell, it is not Question Hour. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI G. G. SWELL: Sir, I have not heard you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. NAGEN SAIKIA): It is not Question Hour. You cannot expect a reply from the Minister just now. Shri Santosh Bagrodia.

SHRI DAVID LEDGER (Assam): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I associate myself with what Mr. Swell has said.

Increase in the number of kidnapping cases in the country

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA (Rajastan): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Home Minister to the recent incidents of kidnappings. Kidnappings, abductions, have become the order of the day. Since the kidnapping of Dr. Rubaiya, the daughter of the then Home Minister, Mufti Mohammed Sayeed, not a day passes without our reading in the newspapers some kidnapping incident